

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method of processing crude clay ore having a
high grit content includes drying crude clay ore to
remove moisture entrained therein, pulverizing the crude
clay ore into individual mineral particles, and
separating the individual mineral particles into
respective product streams. Drying and pulverizing are
performed substantially simultaneously by injecting crude
10 clay ore into a heated air stream flowing through a dryer
that has a plurality of rotating paddles and baffles
therein. The air stream forces the crude clay ore through
the plurality of rotating paddles and baffles to
pulverize the crude clay ore into individual mineral
15 particles. The individual mineral particles leaving the
dryer are then separated into respective product streams
by particle size via one or more conventional
classification techniques.

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